



St. Louis Audubon Society



Tale Feathers

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 3

JUNE 1996

Elections, Awards, and Guest Speaker Highlight St. Louis Audubon Annual Dinner Meeting

by Jim Holsen

New officers and several new board members were elected to fill expired terms at St. Louis Audubon's annual dinner meeting on April 26 at Agusti's Restaurant in St. Louis.

Jim Holsen will succeed Mary Lou Miller as president. Dianne Johnson continues as vice president for education. Arthur Montgomery succeeds Jim Jennings as vice president for finance. Mary Lou Miller, with undiminished enthusiasm for Audubon, will serve as treasurer, replacing Betsy Warren, who has moved to Texas. Mary Dueren continues as secretary.

New members of the board of directors are Dallas Cox, a St. Louis lawyer; Bill Groth, Jr., a biologist now retired from the Army Corps of Engineers and formerly with the Science Center; Jim Jennings, our past vice president for finance and professor at St. Louis University; Sara Lenoe, an employee in the Aquatic House with the bird department of the St. Louis Zoo; Chris Serbia, our representative to the Resource Center Network; Danna Stevens, co-owner of the Wild Bird Unlimited store in Kirkwood; and Larry Terrell, an active member in the newly formed MoNEP (Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers). Each brings his or her special expertise to St. Louis Audubon.

Awards Given to Leo Drey and Katherine Chambers

At the annual dinner, Leo A. Drey was presented with St. Louis Audubon Society's Conservationist of the Year Award. Leo was cited for his leadership and devotion to the principles of conservation and for his many contributions to the preservation of Missouri's natural heritage.

Leo uses his 160,000-acre Pioneer

forest in the central Ozarks to demonstrate the principles of conservative natural forest management and watershed protection. Through the L-A-D Foundation, he has saved and made available to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Conservation a number of sites of historical and/or ecological significance. Among these are Greer Springs, near the Eleven Point River; Dillard's Mill; and Grand Gulf, near the Arkansas border. There are many more.

Leo is an activist for conservation. He is a master signature gatherer for petitions. He was instrumental in founding the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the Open Space Council. Through his L-A-D Foundation, he has insured the success of the recently organized Missouri Environmental Fund, an organization similar to the United Way for payroll giving to environmental groups, and, in the last few months, the petition drive for the reauthorization of the parks and soil conservation sales tax. Missouri would be quite different without Leo.

Katherine Chambers, a long-time active member of St. Louis Audubon, received the Society's Dr. Robert J. Terry Award "for outstanding achievement in bringing to the lives of others the need for conservation of our natural resources." The citation reads: "As a teacher, professor, scholar, docent, tutor, and friend, Katherine has devoted her life to sharing a vast knowledge of biology with people of all ages. Through the years she has been active as a member and an officer of every St. Louis organization interested in education, biological science, and the environment."

At the age of 92, Dr. Katherine Chambers remains essential to the functioning of several St. Louis institutions. She is active in many ways with the Science Center. She

was a founding member and is still active in the St. Louis Nature Study Society. She heads Audubon's membership committee and the dedicated group that meets with her every 2 months to place this newsletter in the mail.

Dr. Terry was chairman of the Anatomy Department at Washington University for many years. Shortly after the turn of the century, he helped found the St. Louis Bird Club, which in 1944 became the first chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Mary Lou Miller Recognized for her Service as President

Mary Lou Miller, our out-going president, received an original print of Missouri wildflowers in recognition of her dedicated leadership during a period in which St. Louis Audubon and the National Audubon Society were both undergoing a reexamination of their roles in education and conservation. The print is the work of Marjorie Richardson, an Audubon member.

Anthropology Professor Delivers Slide Show

How to preserve the 3.2 million-year-old humanoid tracks found in Tanzania? That is the responsibility of Fiona Marshall, Professor of Anthropology at Washington University, and was the subject of her delightful presentation that wrapped up St. Louis Audubon's 1996 annual dinner meeting.

Look for Feature Articles inside:

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From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Annual Picnic Scheduled for September

The St. Louis Audubon annual picnic, held last year in the Freund Center at the Arboretum near Gray Summit, will be scheduled this year for a date in September. Check the August newsletter for details. Last year the weather was just too hot in August; we'll try for a cooler date this year.

Calendar Planning Meeting Set for July 2

On Tuesday, July 2, officers and others with events scheduled during the 1996-97 year will meet at 7:30 pm at the St. Louis Audubon Society headquarters, in the Medical Arts Building at 325 N. Kirkwood Road in Kirkwood. At this meeting, we will lay out our programs for the year and prepare the calendar for publication in the August newsletter. We want our calendar to be complete to avoid conflicts. If you are responsible for certain programs, please plan to attend or contact Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410.

Keep Saving CCA Items

Product receipts and labels for the Community Club Awards (CCA) project can be sent to Dorothy Mill throughout the summer. Remember, Audubon earns cash through this program. For more information, please call Dorothy, H# 966-6163.

Please send your items to:

Dorothy Mill
1601 Featherstone Drive
St. Louis, MO 63131

Various Audubon Members Involved in International Migratory Bird Week Celebration

by Mary Lou Miller

St. Louis Audubon had a display table at the Missouri Botanical Garden on May 5, Sunday, from 10 am to 3 pm, as part of the International Migratory Bird Week Celebration. Those who worked this table handed out materials regarding migratory birds, including the brochure "Will We Lose Our Songbirds?", the poster "Birds of Two Worlds" from NAS, and "Partners in Flight," the new poster for 1996.

Volunteers at this activity were:

Dick Boeneker
Lynn Breakstone
Rhonda Keller
Stan McLean
Betty Williams

The following people were birding leaders during this special week:

Paul Bauer
Jim Holsen
Jim Malone
Kevin Renick
Mike Treffert
Blaine Ulmer

On Saturday, May 11, International Migratory Bird Day, between 11 am and 3 pm, members gathered at the St. Louis Zoo for a Bird Discovery Day. Volunteers set up 10 separate tables in the lower level of the Living World and talked to the public about various bird-related subjects, such as binoculars and scopes, bird houses and feeders, bird identification, bird anatomy, raptors, birding locations, and kids' birding activities. Also, a bluebird turned up to entertain everyone.

This activity was a huge success. More than 125 new IMBD posters for 1996 were handed out along with other information. The kids' tables were kept very busy with coloring, bird origami, and face painting. Ron Darling brought many samples of bird houses and feeders. Mary Smith brought in wings and an owl and hawk mount, which kept everyone interested. The Zoo provided a live screech owl, crow, and sparrow hawk

for public display. Our new banner for this event hung in the rotunda of the Living World building. The banner, crowds, and the bluebird helped draw the public to the lower level.

The following volunteers helped at this event:

Kids' Activities--

Dianne Johnson
Dale Ponce
Sue Smith
Larry Terrell

Birding Locations--

Mary Dueren

Raptors--

Joe Nydegger
Mary Smith

Houses and Feeders--

Ron Darling
Jerry Miller

Binoculars and Scopes--

Marv Stahlak

Bird Identification--

Dianne Johnson
Becky Warren

St. Louis Audubon

Informational Table--

Stan McLean
Mary Lou Miller
Chris Serbia

Handling the St. Louis Zoo Birds--

Trish Abbene

The St. Louis Zoo liaisons were Louise Bradshaw and Cindy Smith. A big thank you to both of them for having everything ready for St. Louis Audubon and also for giving all our people such good help. Also, Carol Kershner from Wild Bird Rehabilitation was on hand to explain and give information on sick or injured birds and their care.

All those who helped during this special week were given International Migratory Bird Week T-shirts with the Partners in Flight poster art work on the front. These were a big help in identifying the people involved in the events.

Thanks to all of the above volunteers! A special thanks to the many who helped get handouts and displays ready ahead of time and transported them to and from the Zoo for the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get to Know . . .
Dale Ponce

Audubon-Related Activity

Calendar Planning Meeting -- *Tuesday, July 2*, at 7:30 pm at St. Louis Audubon office, 325 N. Kirkwood Rd. All those responsible for programs and activities for fall 1996 through spring 1997 should plan to attend. See related article on page 2.

Special Events

Upcoming Trips with Friends of Tyson -- *June through September*. Trips emphasize birding with Dick Coles, naturalist. Locations vary; call Darlene Marlow, 727-2325, for flyers & info. on how to sign up.

Status & Management of River Otters -- *Thursday, June 20*, 7 to 8:30 pm, at Powder Valley Nature Center. Dave Hamilton, furbearer biologist for the MO Conservation Department, will discuss history & restoration efforts of river otters. Talk will also include philosophy of managing fur bearers & wildlife & the data & reasons an otter trapping season has been introduced. All ages. For more info., call 821-8427.

Fourth Annual Butterfly Count -- *Saturdays, June 22 & September 7*, 10 am to 1 pm, at 3 locations: Busch Conservation Area & Valley View Glade & Victoria Glade in Jefferson County. For more info., call Susanne Greenlee at The Nature Conservancy, 968-1105.

Botanical Drawing Workshop -- *First Session: Saturdays, June 29 through August 3*, 10 am to 3 pm, at Gordon Moore Prairie in Alton, IL. *Second Session: Saturdays, August 24 through September 28*, 10 am to 3 pm, at Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum near Gray Summit. First & last classes will meet at different locations. Taught by Dycie Madson, workshop will concentrate on native prairie & endangered species of native American plants. Enrollment limited to 12 to 15 people. Cost is \$70, with 10% going to organization through which you register. For more info. & registration form, call Dycie Madson, 618/466-2919.

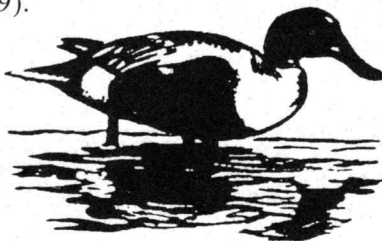
Night Skies Over Babler State Park -- *Saturdays, July 13 & August 10*.

This summer astronomy series covers how to use a telescope, stories & legends about the constellations, & provides an opportunity to look at the moon, stars, & planets through a telescope. Free; reservations required. All ages, accompanying adult required. Reservations accepted beginning June 29 for the July 13 program and beginning July 27 for the August 10 program. Call 458-3813.

Sweat'n Chanterelles Foray at Babler State Park -- *Sunday, July 14*.

Program includes 1-hour classroom presentation followed by foray to discover summer mushrooms. Free--adults/families; reservations required & accepted beginning July 1. Call 458-3813.

Marsh & Waterbird Survey at Mark Twain Lake -- *Saturday, July 20*, at 8:30 am. Volunteers can participate for as long as they can. Bring picnic lunch; beverages provided. Meet at Clarence Cannon Dam office. Wear old tennis shoes & cotton pants (blue jeans not recommended). For more info., contact Beatrix at U.S. Fish & Wildlife office (573/847-2333) or at home (573/847-2109).



Operation Clean Stream -- *Saturday, August 24*. Annual trash pickup along the Meramec River, sponsored by the Open Space Council & Monsanto. Plan to bring your own canoe or contact Jerry Castillon for availability of additional canoes. Many organizations participate; St. Louis Audubon has its own stretch of river for which we are responsible. Watch for more details in August newsletter or contact Jerry Castillon, H# 391-7586.

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

I grew up in South St. Louis in the 1930's and 40's, and during those formative years my only contact with wildlife was an occasional trip to the Zoo.

After graduation from high school, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps, and our government gave me an all-expense paid trip to Korea. I suppose my first real contact with the outdoor world occurred during my 4 years in the Corps, and although I sometimes found myself in awe of nature, I never really developed an appreciation for it nor much of a desire to understand it.

After my discharge from the Marines, I returned home and began a career in law enforcement as a Missouri State Trooper. Shortly thereafter, I stopped at a small country restaurant for coffee, and the waitress there was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. We were married about a year later, and our lives were blessed with our 4 daughters.

I resigned from the Highway Patrol after a few years to join the newly formed St. Louis County Department of Police. I served in numerous capacities on the Department, from uniformed patrol officer to homicide detective and in the later years as a command officer.

My experiences were almost always rewarding, occasionally dangerous but consistently filled with pressures and tension. I found I could totally release those pressures and eliminate tension by simply spending some time in the natural world. I still didn't really appreciate those places for what they were, but only as a place where I could find a quiet, peaceful day where tensions were replaced with renewed energy.

The catalyst that finally launched me on a quest for knowledge and my deep love of nature occurred at one of our church dinners some 15 or so years ago. After the dinner, our guest speaker was a taxidermist, and one of the mounts he had on display was a passenger pigeon.

The Conservation Corner

Petition Drive for Parks and Soils Tax is the Only Way

by Jim Holsen

Six bills calling for a constitutional amendment to reauthorize the parks and soils conservation sales tax were introduced in the session of the General Assembly just ended. Although hearings were held on the 5 House bills, no action was ever taken by the committee. The 1 bill in the Senate was voted out of committee, but was withdrawn before it could come to a vote on the floor.

It is just as well. The present 1/10th of 1 percent sales tax, first approved in 1984 and again, with 69 percent approval, in 1988, supports our state parks and soil conservation program. The annual revenue of about \$56 million is split 50/50 between the 2 programs. All of the bills introduced this year except 1 attempted to divert money from the soil conservation program to urban problems such as local parks and stormwater control. The tax expires in 1998; action should be taken this year to avoid a shut-down of our state parks.

Urban-rural squabbling held up any effective action. Practically all legislators from the St. Louis metropolitan area backed bills in the House and Senate that would have cut funding for the soil conservation program by 40 percent by the year 2001, while leaving funding for state parks intact. These bills had strong support from lobbyists for the Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA), the Metropolitan Sewer District, and city and county governments.

We support the need for more funding for urban parks and for stormwater control, but that funding should not come at the expense of our parks and soil conservation programs.

Soil conservation is widely viewed as benefiting only farmers. That is a short-sighted approach. Pesticides in rivers and lakes threaten our drinking water supplies. When we prevent the soil from eroding, we also keep the pesticides out of our streams. When the soil conservation program began in 1984, Missouri ranked second in the

nation in terms of tons of soil lost per acre. Although we now have one of the best soil conservation programs, we still rank among the 10 states that are the worst offenders. This is not the time to cut funds for soil conservation.

This is why the group known as St. Louisans for Clean Water and State Parks is conducting a petition drive to collect enough signatures to place the issue on the ballot this November. Representatives from the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri Parks Association, the Sierra Club, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, and Audubon are working together to make this drive a success. The petitions call for a straightforward reauthorization of the existing tax with its 50/50 split between state parks and soil conservation.

Will we succeed? It is still nip and tuck. Not much time remains. The official deadline is July 5, but for practical purposes the petition drive will end about the third week in June.

Extremely cold weather this winter and wet weather this spring discouraged petitioners and signature gatherers alike. These things have a way of coming together at the last minute, but only with the help of many volunteers. If you are called upon, please offer your help. Volunteers are needed to gather signatures, call upon other volunteers for help, and to validate the signatures obtained so far.

Our legislators have left us with no alternative to the petition drive. It must succeed. Over 15 years ago, before the sales tax was first approved, our state parks were closed for lack of funds. Since then, Missouri voters have twice voted overwhelmingly to support their state parks and soil conservation program. They must be given that opportunity once again.

Missouri Ranks First in Burning Hazardous Wastes in Cement Kilns

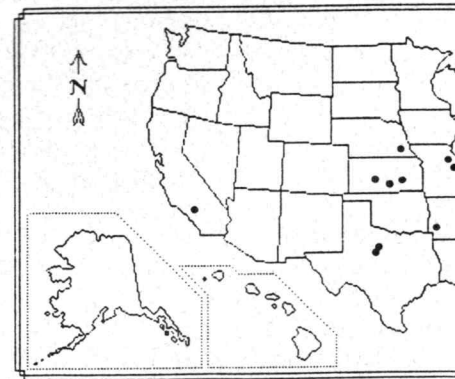
by Jim Holsen

It is not widely known, but Missouri ranks first among all 50 states in the tonnage of hazardous wastes burned in cement kilns. In fact, 23 percent of all hazardous wastes incinerated in cement kilns is burned in Missouri, and the proportion is increasing yearly.

Cement kilns began burning hazardous wastes as fuel after passage in 1984 of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the "Superfund" bill. With passage of the 1984 amendments, many classes of chlorinated solvents and liquid industrial wastes were banned from landfills. For many materials, incineration or shipment abroad is the only practical alternative to expensive chemical treatments.

The capacity of commercial hazardous waste incinerators is limited, however, and the practice of blending waste materials with the usual fuel is attractive economically for both the waste producer and the kiln operator. Cement kiln operators have not been required to follow the same strict regulations that apply to commercial waste incinerators, however, and the kilns pose a greater risk to the environment.

Locations of Cement Kilns Burning Hazardous Wastes



The 4 Missouri kilns which burn hazardous wastes are all located in the eastern portion of the state, along the Mississippi River:

Continental Cement Co. in Hannibal
Holnam, Inc. in Clarksville
River Cement Company in Festus
Lone Star Industries in Cape Girardeau

Since 1984 these Missouri kilns have been operating under temporary permits. Only now are they going through what is known as the "Part B permitting process." Commercial incinerator operators have long argued that cement kilns that burn hazardous wastes should be subject to the same rigid restrictions that apply to them.

Cement Production

Cement is produced by heating a crushed mixture of limestone and clay in a rotary kiln to temperatures approaching 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. The product, which consists of small particles resembling sand to marble-sized or larger pellets, is called clinker. The clinker is ground and mixed with gypsum and other materials to form cement. The kiln itself resembles a long tube, inclined to the horizontal. The raw materials are fed in at the top, and the clinker emerges at the bottom. Hot gases from a furnace, admitted at the bottom of the kiln, flow up the tube in a "counter-current" manner to the descending limestone-clay mixture.

Usual fuels for the furnace are pulverized coal, coke, or natural gas. Many hazardous wastes such as hydrocarbon solvents are excellent fuels themselves, and the furnaces are easily adapted to blending the wastes with the customary fuel.

Conclusions

The EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources should continue their efforts to ensure protection of human health and the environment. An eventual goal of the EPA is to use market forces to reduce the production of hazardous

wastes. This will not occur until cement kilns are subject to the same restrictions as commercial incinerators.

The American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri, which has been studying emissions from cement kilns for several years, has recently published a comprehensive "Initial Report on Hazardous Waste Burning Cement Kiln Operations in Eastern Missouri."

Phone Line Jewels

by Mary Dueren

I have been a phone line volunteer for a few years now, and on occasion I retrieve calls that generate rewards for our chapter.

During April, a caller left intriguing information about a mockingbird tape that is listed in Cornell University's Ornithology Library as the longest on record. After I spoke to Mr. Lorenz Petersen and listened to a portion of the tape, Mr. Petersen donated a copy of the hour-long tape and the story that went along with the tape. The following is the story:

"The Saga of the Charlack Mockingbird"

The date: May 3, 1984. In the still dark, pre-dawn hours of a clear, spring moon-lit night.

The place: the side yard of the home of Lorenz and Marjorie Petersen, 8606 Argyle, village of Charlack in West St. Louis County.

The event: a particular male mockingbird began his epic song.

No way could the participants in the hour-long drama/experience realize at the time that this bird's song was something very special. Just how special? Residents of Charlack and the surrounding St. Louis areas can be proud of the fact that the longest known, uninterrupted tape recording of a northern mockingbird's song originated in Charlack.

Today a copy of that original recording rests in the world-famous Library of Natural Sounds, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. There it joins nearly 32,000 other recordings of more than 3,500 species of birds and animals gathered from throughout the world.

But, back to that memorable morning of May 3, 1984. Petersen relates that it was about 3:30 am when he was awakened in his second-floor bedroom by the bird's warm-up notes outside his partially opened window.

Hurrying downstairs, he grabbed a portable tape recorder/player and a 120-minute tape. Sensing that the bird was somewhere among the branches and leaves of the silver maple tree outside his east window, he positioned the player in that window.

For a full 60 minutes, Mr. Mockingbird trilled, twittered, chirped, chattered, warbled and mimicked his way through what one can only surmise as being his entire repertoire of delightful songs, without interruption. Neither the barking of neighborhood dogs nor the sounds of airplanes roaring directly overhead disturbed him one iota.

He may have had in mind singing there even longer, but with the tape having run out, Petersen had to move the player, thus possibly causing the

songster to fly away. Besides, dawn was beginning to break across the eastern skies.

Petersen relates that at no time during those 60 memorable minutes was he able to sight the bird; it was simply too dark and the fresh, green leaves

of the maple too thick.

However, thanks to years of research by expert ornithologists, Petersen feels well acquainted with his feathered friend. For example, it was a northern mockingbird as differentiated from 8 other similar species assigned to the genus *Mimus*, which range from the central U.S. southward to the West Indies and Central America to Argentina, Chile, and the Galapagos Islands.

Likewise, chances are that this songster was an **unmated** male, for only they are acknowledged to have a habit of not only singing more than mated males, but only unmated males sing at night in the spring.



Modern ornithologists have found that some mockingbirds have a repertoire of songs and calls of more than 30 other birds, in addition to imitations of postmen's whistles and dogs' barking. Typically, they repeat each phrase 3 or 4 times before changing tunes.

In June of 1990 Petersen first contacted the curator of the Library of Natural Sounds in Ithaca about the tape. An enthusiastic response led to the sending of the original tape and completion of archival agreement papers.

In accepting the tape, the Library's curator, Greg Budney, wrote: "It is an extremely interesting recording particularly from the standpoint of its duration--over 1 hour long. And, this is a very valuable recording, too, as it really gives one a true picture of the repertoire of the northern mockingbird."

Curator Budney especially commented on the tape's extremely high quality, essential to the Library's considerations. The Library has exclusive reproduction and distribution rights.

Ralph Graczak featured the bird and tape in his Sunday comics, before the Library's recognition.

Among the many questions asked of Petersen about the taping: "Did this bird ever hear his recital played back?"

"Indubitably," replies Petersen. "I felt I owed him that. In fact, I played it from my back porch steps a couple of days later, and he showed up in just a matter of a few minutes."

And the follow-up question: "What was the bird's reaction? Did he maybe preen-like, 'strut his stuff' as it were?"

"Far from it," Petersen says. "That bird went wild! He treated the bird behind that song as an 'invader' of his turf, his territory, flying frantically, feathers all a-ruffle, cussing-like, even attempting to divebomb the player. Oh, he was angry!"

And that has been the exact reaction of every other male mockingbird who has heard it played since, spring, summer, and fall dozens and dozens of times--all ready to do battle with this frisky intruder into their territory.

The St. Louis Audubon Society wishes to thank Mr. Lorenz Petersen for his generous donation of the *Charlack Mockingbird* to our audio-visual library.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



The Education Corner

St. Louis Audubon Awards Two Ecology Camp Scholarships

by Julie Wells

The awards committee has selected 2 recipients for St. Louis Audubon Society scholarships to attend the Audubon ecology camps this summer. The recipients are Phyllis Siegel and Wayne Baldwin.

Phyllis is a sixth grade teacher at Beasley Elementary School in the Mehlville School District. She will be attending the camp in Maine. Wayne is a science teacher at Nipher Middle School in the Kirkwood School District. He will be attending the camp in Wyoming. They are both eager to use the knowledge they obtain at the camps to enrich the science and ecology programs for their students.

Local Members Enjoy Spring River Conference

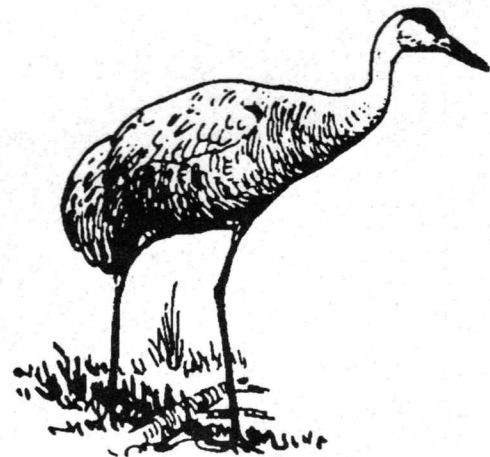
by Mary Dueren

National Audubon Society convened its 1996 Spring River Conference on March 14 in Kearney, Nebraska. The theme of this year's conference, "Great Rivers of the Plains and Prairies, the Search for Stewardship" offered various speakers and perspectives on the Platte, Niobrara, and Missouri Rivers. St. Louis representatives at the conference were Dianne Johnson and Mary Dueren.

As always, numerous field trips were scheduled to the blinds on the banks of the Platte River where NAS maintains the Rowe Sanctuary. These excursions to the blinds are conducted in the evening, an hour before sunset, and early in the morning, an hour before sunrise. It is a spectacular sight to watch the sandhill cranes glide into

the Platte River in the bright orange setting sun. It is just as inspiring to watch not only the cranes, but the thousands of greater and lesser Canada geese, white-fronted geese, snow geese, and other ducks launch into flight as the sun is rising. The weather was unbelievably cooperative this year, providing warm days and cool nights for bird watching.

In addition, a field trip to Funk Lagoon, a National Wildlife refuge, was well attended Friday. Once we reached the wetland area, a red-tailed hawk was released by a local raptor rehabilitation group. Due to lack of rain over the winter, most of the marshes and lakes were experiencing very low water. There was a real concern about the large populations of ducks and geese in the area contracting avian cholera. Our guides explained that the cranes' migration was slightly behind schedule and the geese and duck migrations were slightly ahead of schedule, thus affording the birders a chance to watch literally millions of birds.



Saturday was filled with presentations by many speakers. A special Platte River forum was conducted and presented many perspectives: federal, state, water, land, and Audubon. Other topics included Population, Consumption, and the Environment; Canoeing and Camping on the Niobrara; Missouri River Challenges and Opportunities; and Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Lunches and dinners featured many distinguished guest speakers including John Cavanaugh, Chairman of the Platte River Trust; John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society; retiring U.S. Senator J. James Exon, D-Nebraska; and Dr. Peter Stangel, Director of the Neotropical Bird Conservation Initiative, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Dianne and I concluded our conference by attending the West Central Audubon Council meeting on Sunday morning. Key topics were maintaining communication between chapters in the West Central Region and the setup of Audubon field offices. Our region will be setting up an office in 1 of the 8 states covered by the West Central Region.

Dianne and I found this conference to be a wealth of information and a very great opportunity to share ideas. In particular, we very much enjoyed talking with other Auduboners from various parts of the country. We now know that other chapters are experiencing similar problems and successes that our chapter is. We also experienced some exceptional birding. Our life lists grew a little longer, especially with the American woodcock performing his courtship flight as well as the majestic sandhill cranes.

The planning process is already underway for next year--think about joining us in 1997 for a journey to the plains to watch the sandhill cranes. For information about this year's conference or next year's, call Dianne Johnson (H# 458-4369) or Mary Dueren (H# 576-1473).

One Hundred and One . . . A Turkey Story

by Richard F. Clement

I am the fortunate possessor of a varied wooded and meadowed farm on the upper Meramec River just below so-called Cedar Ford, near the population center of America at Steelville, Missouri.

Originally, it comprised about 810 acres of ground with about 4 miles of Meramec River frontage. Years ago I had built River House, a home located on a rock cliff about 200 feet above the river with an all-encompassing view from the front lawn of the river and acreage all along it. In its large backyard there were various fruit, oak, and pine trees.

One late afternoon I dropped kernels of corn from one side of the back lawn to the other side, just about 30 feet from our windowed back entrance. That evening at dinner, a beautiful wild turkey ambled along pecking at the corn. I cautioned my wife not to move as another turkey followed the first one.

There was a continual line of turkeys following the leader, and I started counting them. Believe it or not, 101 beautiful big wild turkeys with a limping one in the last place pecked at the corn and followed the leader. They went into the woods to what must have been a favorite roosting place for the night.

After they had gone, I dropped other corn along the original line of their movement. At breakfast the next morning--guess what--the same 101 turkeys followed the line in a reverse direction. Indeed, the two-way episode was really something to be remembered.

Dale Ponce *continued from page 3*

I remarked to him that I had never seen one and asked if they were found locally. He smiled and said, "They're extinct."

The impact of those 2 words hit me like a ton of bricks, and for the first time I realized that "extinct" means forever. That night I vowed to learn all I could and to become involved in doing something, however small, to preserve our world.

Now when I go to the woods or some stream, I am still surrounded by peace, but I am also keenly aware that everything I see, touch or smell is a

miracle. Combined, they are one of the greatest gifts we have been given.

I suppose the one thing above all else that I have learned is that I still don't know enough and that I still have not done enough.

My wife and I celebrated our 40th anniversary last February, and our family has grown to include 14 grandchildren. My prayer is that those children will not grow up seeing only the destruction we have caused because if they do, then they will be justified in saying "how stupid our grandfather was."

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Introductory/\$20

☐ Individual/\$35

☐ Family/\$40

☐ Sustaining/\$50

☐ Supporting/\$100

☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21

☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:

National Audubon Society
If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Officers 1996-97

Jim Holsen	President	822-0410
Dianne Johnson	VP-Education	458-4369
	VP-Conservation	
Arthur Montgomery	VP-Finance	822-1215
Mary Lou Miller	Treasurer	389-3969
Mary Dueren	Secretary	576-1473

Board of Directors

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Dallas Cox		878-1080
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Dale Ponce		394-6011
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Sue Smith	Programs	256-7986
Dannia Stevens		618/451-1255
Larry Terrell		291-1792
Julie Wells	Awards & Scholarships	962-2093

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Paul Bauer	Birding	921-3972
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	822-2428
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	391-7586
Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
	Newsletter Mailing	
Sue Jones	Bird Seed Sale Committee	721-0819
LaVerne Koyn	Message Center Phone Line	878-9125
Christine Matthews	Condolences, Illnesses, Etc.	240-4563
Dorothy Mill	Community Club Awards	966-6163
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	389-3969
Janice Patton	Print Library	921-4875
Karen Turner	Resource Center Network Rep.	771-9350
	SLEEN Representative	
Dave Tylka	Strategic Planning Committee	984-7712

Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call (314) 822-6595.

Thank You from Mary Lou Miller

My thanks to the members, officers, and board of directors of the St. Louis Audubon Society for the lovely gift as I left the presidency after 3 years. I was presented with an original silkscreen of Missouri wildflowers, signed by the artist Marjorie Robbins Richardson.

What a lovely tribute it is! I have found a special place for it in my home. Although it was a very busy time, I found the best part of being president was the people I met and worked with during this period. Thanks to all who helped me during that time, and thank you again for the thoughtful gift.

Newsletter Information

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Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **August 1, 1996** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).



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